

REMARKS

The Office Action dated November 24, 2003, has been received and carefully considered. Claims 1-52 are pending in the present application.

I. THE ELECTION/RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that the present application contains claims directed to three patentably distinct species of the claimed invention: 1.) an apparatus and method for accommodating transition-induced delay directed to claims 1-4, 8-11, and 16-22; 2.) an apparatus and method for accommodating transition-induced delay directed to claims 5-7, 12-15, and 23-35; and 3.) an apparatus and method for accommodating delay variation among multiple signals directed to claims 36-52.

Applicants hereby respectfully traverse this election/restriction requirement, and hereby request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this election/restriction requirement. As required, however, Applicants provisionally elect claims 1-4, 8-11, and 16-22 for prosecution in the event that this election/restriction requirement is made final.

Under 35 U.S.C. § 121, restriction is appropriate if two or more independent and distinct inventions are claimed in one

application. As set forth in MPEP § 802.01, inventions are independent if there is no disclosed relationship between the two or more subjects disclosed. However, claims 1-35 are clearly related in that all are directed toward accommodating transition-induced delay. Also, claims 1-35 and claims 36-52 are clearly related since claims 1-35 are directed toward accommodating transition-induced delay and claims 36-52 are directed toward accommodating delay variation among multiple signals. Thus, claims 1-52 are related and are not independent from each other. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the election/restriction requirement be withdrawn.

II. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early indication of the same is courteously solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed telephone number, in order to expedite resolution of any issues and to expedite passage of the present application to issue, if any comments, questions, or suggestions arise in connection with the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136 is hereby made.

Patent Application
Attorney Docket No.: 57941.000039
Client Reference No.: RA212.P.US

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with
the filing of this communication to Deposit Account No. 50-0206,
and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

Hunton & Williams LLP

By: 

Thomas E. Anderson

Registration No. 37,063

TEA/vrp

Hunton & Williams LLP
1900 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006-1109
Telephone: (202) 955-1500
Facsimile: (202) 778-2201

Date: December 24, 2003